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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

**[Docket No. APHIS-2017-0071]**

**Availability of an Environmental Assessment for the Biological Control of Yellow Toadflax**

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: We are extending the comment period for our draft environmental assessment relative to the control of yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*), which considers the effects of, and alternatives to, the field release of a stem gall weevil, *Rhinusa pilosa*, into the continental United States for use as a biological control agent to reduce the severity of yellow toadflax infestations. This action will allow interested persons additional time to prepare and submit comments.

DATES: The comment period for the notice of availability and request for comments published on October 2, 2017 (82 FR 45796-45797), is extended. We will consider all comments that we receive on or before November 16, 2017.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2017-0071>.
- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2017-0071, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2017-0071> or in our reading room, which is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799-7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Colin D. Stewart, Assistant Director, Pests, Pathogens, and Biocontrol Permits, Permitting and Compliance Coordination, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 851-2327, email: [Colin.Stewart@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Colin.Stewart@aphis.usda.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 2, 2017, we published in the *Federal Register* (82 FR 45796-45797, Docket No. APHIS-2017-0071) a notice of availability and request for comments<sup>1</sup> on our draft environmental assessment relative to the control of yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*), which considers the effects of, and alternatives to, the field release of a stem gall weevil, *Rhinusa pilosa*, into the continental United States for use as a biological control agent to reduce the severity of yellow toadflax infestations.

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<sup>1</sup> To view the notice and environmental assessment, go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2017-0071>.

Comments on the draft environmental assessment were required to be received on or before November 1, 2017. We are extending the comment period on Docket No. APHIS-2017-0071 for an additional 15 days. This action will allow interested persons additional time to prepare and submit comments.

Done in Washington, DC, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of October 2017.

Michael C. Gregoire,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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